



NOAA's Clean Water Initiative



\$21.9 Million in FY 2001

NOAA's FY 2001 request includes \$21.9 million, an increase of \$6.9 million over FY 2000 appropriations, to help coastal communities reduce the flow of polluted runoff from agricultural fields, city streets, and other areas into coastal waters. Polluted and coastal water pollution is one of the primary factors associated with outbreaks of harmful algal blooms (e.g., *Pfiesteria*) in U.S. coastal waters. NOAA's Clean Water Initiative calls for a modest but wise investment that will help to protect waters that support billions of dollars in activities related to coastal tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing. These investments contribute to meeting NOAA's responsibilities in responding to the report, "Turning to the Sea: America's Ocean Future."

Control of Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10.4 million

Rain-generated runoff into coastal waters all too often carries with it a variety of contaminants such as nutrients, which are often associated with Harmful algal blooms (HABs). NOAA has helped to improve and expand State HAB monitoring programs and develop new technologies for rapidly detecting HABs in coastal waters, a key to protecting the health of humans and living marine resources. This funding, which includes an increase of \$2.4 million, will enable NOAA and its partners to build upon previous efforts to better predict and prevent future HAB events.

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff - \$ 10.5 million

\$10.5 million in FY 2001, an increase of \$4.0 million, will enable coastal states with newly approved Coastal Zone Management programs (e.g., Georgia, Ohio, Texas, Minnesota) to develop Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control programs, through \$4.5 million in grants from the Nonpoint Pollution Control program, Section 6217. The remaining \$6.0 million will enable all states with NOAA-approved Coastal Zone Management programs to refine their strategies for reducing the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters and thereby help them to gain full approval of their pollution control programs.

Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - \$ 1.0 million

\$1.0 million in FY 2001 will help reduce the flow of pollutants from hazardous waste sites into our coastal waters. NOAA's Coastal Protection and Restoration (CPR) program (formerly the Coastal Resource Coordination program) works at hazardous waste sites to protect and restore coastal resources and habitats, including the waters and sediments necessary to support a healthy ecosystem. This request will enable NOAA to address a broader range of waste sites and provide critical technical assistance to States and communities to improve the health of coastal waters.

Taking Action Now

Polluted runoff is now the number one source of coastal water pollution. Communities, businesses, and human health are increasingly threatened by polluted runoff and its damaging consequences. Every year, degraded coastal water quality necessitates warnings or closures of thousands of beaches, and nearly thirty percent of U.S. shellfish growing areas continue to be restricted or closed, resulting in significant losses to the tourism, recreation, and seafood industries. Events associated with polluted coastal waters such as HABs (e.g., *Pfiesteria*, red and brown tides) have impacted nearly every coastal State and produced an estimated \$1 billion in economic losses in coastal communities over the last twenty years. The increasing frequency and magnitude of these problems demands that significant action be taken now to restore and protect the health of our coastal waters. NOAA has the authorities, capabilities, and partnerships necessary to address these complicated problems and ensure clean and healthy coastal waters for future generations.

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NOAA FY 2001 Budget Breakout of Clean Water Initiative

National Ocean Service		FY 2001	Purpose
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment			
Oceanic & Coastal Research		\$ 1.0	Charleston Lab HAB Research
Ocean Assessment Program		\$ 5.2	HAB Research, Monitoring & Assessment
Response and Restoration		\$ 1.0	CRC Protection and Restoration
Coastal Ocean Science		<u>\$ 4.2</u>	ECOHAB
Subtotal		\$ 11.4	
Ocean and Coastal Management			
CZMA Grants		\$ 6.0	Polluted runoff grants
Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control		<u>\$ 4.5</u>	Program development grants
Subtotal		\$10.5	
Clean Water Initiative	Total	\$ 21.9	(dollars in millions)

Control of Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10.4 million

The requested funds will support efforts that include:

- continuing interagency cooperation through the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) research programs to develop HAB forecasting models and new monitoring tools, and to select appropriate management options for reducing the impacts of HABs;
- strengthening NOAA-State partnerships for improving HAB monitoring and assessment capabilities;
- expanding capabilities to assist States in responding quickly to HAB events; and
- implementing research on the link between nutrient input to coastal waters, oxygen depletion, and HABs.

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff - \$ 10.5 million

The requested funds, which include \$4 million in increases, will support State efforts to reduce polluted runoff by enabling them to:

- work with developers and local governments to ensure that new development is sited so as to minimize polluted runoff to adjacent waterbodies;
- provide training to agricultural interests to identify practices that can be implemented to protect coastal waters as part of whole farm planning;
- work with other State agencies and local communities to identify opportunities to reduce polluted runoff from existing development; and,
- educate homeowners on ways to limit nutrient and pesticide applications to reduce the potential for polluted runoff.

Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - \$ 1.0 million

Funding of \$1.0 million in FY 2001, an increase of \$0.5 million, will enable NOAA to:

- address a broader range of contaminated sites that pose a significant risk to coastal natural resources and human health;
- provide critical technical assistance to States and communities on the restoration of contaminated coastal habitats.

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